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Panel hits failure to stem technology flow to Soviet

Washington (Combined Dispatches)—A Senate subcommittee said yesterday there is strong evidence that the Commerce Department has failed to control the flow of American military technology to the Soviet Union.

The permanent subcommittee on investigations stopped short, however, of recommending that the department be stripped of its enforcement powers under the Export Administration Act.

The minority staff of the subcommittee, after a yearlong investigation, had recommended at hearings last May that the Customs Service be given full responsibility for enforcement of export controls.

The subcommittee recommended that the United States strengthen its intelligence and enforcement efforts to halt a "massive, well-planned and well-managed" Soviet effort to acquire U.S. technology.

"The evidence is strong that virtually all the

technology they obtain from the West is applied to the Soviet military industry," the panel said.

THE SUBCOMMITTEE SAID, "Advanced American micro-electronics, laser, radar and precision manufacturing technologies have been obtained by the Soviets and have enabled them to make giant strides in military strength at a minimum of risk, investment and resources."

The report also found that Soviet piracy has been made easier by the failure of U.S. intelligence to learn what the Kremlin is after.

Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, the senior Democrat on the panel, said the Soviets have "finely tuned" their efforts to focus on areas of American technology "most suited to their precise needs."

"By contrast, American efforts to stem the transfer of technology have been largely unfocused and overly broad in scope," he said. "By attempting to control everything, we have made it nearly impossible to adequately control anything."